

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00055 120123Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DLOS-04 SAL-01 ACDA-05 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 EB-07 /082 W

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O R 112342Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5942

INFO COMICEDEFOR IMMEDIATE

CINCLANT IMMEDIATE

CNO WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK 0465

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0055

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EFIS PFOR IC UK NATO

SUBJECT: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: BLOCKADE AGAINST IDF
INSTALLATIONS

REF: REYKJAVIK 0052 (DTG 102205Z JAN 76)

1. I RAISED WITH PRIMEMIN HALLGRIMSSON THIS AFTERNOON THE
SERIOUSNESS OF PERMITTING BARRICADES TO BE ERECTED AT IDF
INSTALLATIONS AND CALLED HIS ATTENTION TO OUR DEFENSE AGREEMENT
WHICH TASKS ICELAND TO PROVIDE UNINHIBITED ACCESS OF U.S. MILITARY
TO IDF INSTALLATIONS. I TOLD HIM THAT WE WERE HONORING HIS
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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00055 120123Z

REQUEST TO OVERLOOK ACTION FOR THE TIME BEING BUT FELT THAT

IF CONTINUED HARASSMENT CAUSED IMPAIRMENT TO MILITARY OPERATIONS WE WOULD HAVE TO ASK HIS GOVT TO INTERCEDE. I ADMITTED THAT AT PRESENT TIME THERE WAS NO IMPEDIMENT TO MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND THAT WE WERE REACTING CALMLY. I ALSO GAVE HIM MY OPINION THAT IF SITUATION DETERIORATES AND HIS GOVT FAILS TO REMOVE BARRICADES, IT WILL PUT IN QUESTION THE CREDIBILITY OF HIS OFT-SPOKEN STATEMENTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE IDF TO ICELAND. I FELT THIS WOULD BE A POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT TO HIM AS WELL AS DETRIMENTAL TO SECURITY ACTIVITIES. PRIMEMIN REMARKED HE AGREED AND THAT FINANCEMIN MATTHIAS MATHIESEN, IN WHOSE DISTRICT IDF INSTALLATIONS ARE LOCATED, HAS BEEN MEETING TODAY WITH ICELANDIC TRAWLERSMEN (ORGANIZERS OF THE BLOCKADE) TO URGE PROTESTS BE DISCONTINUED. WHILE WE WERE TALKING MATHIESEN CALLED IN AND SAID HE REACHED FOLLOWING AGREEMENT: (A) MOTORCADE WILL FORM A PROTEST BARRIER THIS AFTERNOON ACROSS ROCKVILLE RADAR SITE ACCESS ROAD, BUT WILL DISBAND BEFORE MIDNIGHT TONIGHT. (COMMENT: BOTH ACTIONS HAVE OCCURRED AS OF 2200 HOURS TONIGHT); (B) GRINDAVIK BARRICADE WILL BE DISMANTLED BY TOMORROW NIGHT (COMMENT: THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THIS ACTION WILL PROBABLY BE ACCOMPLISHED TONIGHT); (C) BLOCKADE AGAINST VL VEHICLES AT MAIN IDF INSTALLATION SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY WILL BE POSTPONED, BUT PROTESTERS WILL SUBMIT LETTER TO COMICEDEFOR SOMETIME THIS WEEK WARNING THAT IF NATO INACTION CONTINUES, MAIN IDF INSTALLATION WILL BE BLOCKADED.

2. PRIMEMIN REQUESTED THAT HE BE GIVEN TOMORROW ON AN URGENT BASIS OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECT BLOCKADING OF VL VEHICLES (I.E., OFFICIAL VEHICLES) WILL HAVE ON OUR MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND HOW LONG WE CAN TOLERATE A BARRICADE OF THE GRINDAVIK AND ROCKVILLE ACCESS ROADS SHOULD THESE BE REIMPOSED. HE ALSO WANTS TO KNOW WHETHER WE CAN IGNORE OR VITIATE THE BLOCKADES OF THESE ROADS BY USING OTHER MEANS, SUCH AS HELICOPTERS TO SUPPLY THE FACILITIES. I HAVE ASKED IDF TO PREPARE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED.

3. ICELANDIC RADIO HAS BEEN BROADCASTING REPORTS OF CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY BEING SENT TO ORGANIZERS OF THE BLOCKADE. PRIMEMIN FEELS THIS MIGHT ENCOURAGE MORE BLOCKADES AND HENCE CANNOT BE CERTAIN HOW LONG MATHIESEN'S AGREEMENT WITH PROTESTERS WILL LAST.

4. PRIMEMIN FEARS THAT IF THERE IS ANOTHER RAMMING OR COLLISION
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 REYKJA 00055 120123Z

OF A UK FRIGATE AND AN ICELANDIC GUNBOAT, THE PROTESTERS WILL OUTNUMBER THE POLICE RENDERING THE LATTER INCAPABLE OF ACTION.

5. WE AGREED THAT THE SITUATION IS SO FLUID THAT WE WILL MAINTAIN FREQUENT CONTACT TO DISCUSS APPROPRIATE COUNTER MEASURES.

6. ALL ACTION THIS SUBJECT BY EMBASSY IS BEING COORDINATED WITH - COLONEL KNUTTY.

IRVING

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